I have been a licensed Amateur Radio operator for over 32 years, and have gone into a career in engineering based on my wonderful experience as a teenager in this great hobby.

During this time, I have battled power line interference in one form or other for years. A few years ago, I experienced an interference problem that literlly knocked me off the air. The local electric company came right out and fixed the problem. I learned two very important lessons from this experience (caused by a loose bolt).

First, power line interference is extremely broadband, covering basically the entire radio spectrum. The engineer from the electric company showed me his receiving equipment used to locate problems. In my case he identifed broadband noise from below the AM broadcast band to about 1 GHz in frequency.

The second thing I learned was that from one loose bolt, an entire neighborhood was affected with noise problems. From the noise source to about 3/4 mile in any direction you could hear the noise on an AM radio.

Now, fast forward to entire cities linked by Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL). Just the thought makes me shudder. Sending RF over long distances using unshielded transmission lines is asking for trouble.

Predictions show that frequencies in the 2 to 80 MHz range will be adversely affected by BPL. This would completely take out my ability to provide HF communications both for hobby purposes and emergency purposes. Should the need arise for emergency communications local hams would be hard pressed to help out even though we want to, and have a long history of such help.

Not only will hams be affected by BPL but so will entire neighborhoods.watching TV, listening to AM radio and anything else that uses this frequency space.

I want to emphasize that any potential intereference will or could be large in scope. Entire blocks, streets or neighborhoods could be adversely affected by BPL data packets being distributed about. This is a much worse situation than a localized noise source affecting only one house.

I urge you to consider other alternatives to BPL. Support Amateur Radio and continue to let us enjoy our hobby and provide valuable services.

Thank You,
Alan Rovner, K7AR